

**Meeting Summary**  
**Outer Coast MRC Work Group**  
Montesano, WA  
October 10, 2008 10 am – 3 pm

Copies of meeting handouts are available by contacting Brie Van Cleve at [vancfbv@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:vancfbv@dfw.wa.gov) or (360) 902-2750.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Brie Van Cleve, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) coordinator for the WDFW coastal marine resource committee (MRC) program, welcomed meeting attendees and stated the meeting purpose was to explore the possible function of Lead Entities in the MRC process, review and revise the program priorities and benchmarks developed at the Sept 5 meeting, and to determine future MRC program advisory body needs. 28 people were in attendance.

**Announcements**

Brie announced that the State Ocean Caucus is hosting a public meeting in Ocean Shores on Wednesday, October 15 and that the Olympic Coast Sanctuary Management Plan review closes November 14. The Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission will hold its annual MRC training conference in Port Angeles Nov 7 and 8. Brie described the Friday (Nov 7) session at this year's conference that will focus on outer coast MRCs and circulated a sign up sheet. Friday's registration and food will be covered by the Commission for those who signed up. If you're interested in staying Friday night or attending Saturday contact Connie Price with the NWS Commission at [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org). This invitation is limited to the Outer Coast MRC Work Group and others specifically involved in the coastal MRC process.

**Lead Entities and MRCs**

Lauri Vigue, WDFW's Lead Entity (LE) Program Coordinator introduced LE's as local, watershed-based salmon recovery planning organizations that develop, prioritize, and carry out habitat protection and restoration projects. Laurie provided a map of the Salmon Recovery Regions and Lead Entities, a diagram of the LE project funding cycle, a summary of the new LE project database called Habitat Work Schedule, and the LE Directory. Laurie described how LEs were established, how they function, and how administrative support is provided through WDFW and project funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Laurie credited the success of the Lead Entities to their grassroots approach to salmon habitat recovery projects and strong political support.

A question was raised about whether LE project funds (SRFB) could be sources of MRC project funds. SRFB funds could be a source of funds, but only for those MRC projects with a salmon recovery focus. The group discussed and clarified the distinction between

MRCs and LE (marine resource focused versus salmon recovery focused) and agreed that a salmon-focused MRC would be redundant and would not meet the intent of the MRC statutes. The group highlighted challenges of LEs serving as MRCs including possibly different interests and expertise of members of the two groups. An advantage of combining the groups to some extent is increased administrative funding to support for existing LE coordinators. The group agreed that partnerships and coordination between MRCs, LEs, and other groups and governmental agencies is essential for success.

There was discussion about the role of LEs according to the MRC statute. Post meeting, it is clarified that a county may delegate its management, oversight, and MRC member appointment authority to a city or cities within its jurisdiction and that, in lieu of creating a new entity, a county may designate a lead entity to also serve as a MRC if the LE consents in writing to also serve as the MRC.

### **MRC Program Parameters**

The group discussed Dale Beasley's 10/7/08 email to the group expressing desire to position MRCs to cover future pressing coastal issues – such as ocean energy, ocean gas and oil drilling, new Sanctuary management rules, ocean aquaculture – and provide real citizen input in future coastal changes. These issues, including Doppler radar/weather forecasting, should be included in the benchmarks (see attached). Per Dale's suggestion, Penny Dalton and John Hansen, both members of the State Ocean Caucus (SOC), clarified that the SOC in its current form is more staff meeting than decision making body and that no voting among members occurs. Penny and John said that the SOC would consider inviting a MRC representative to SOC meetings to improve coordination.

### **MRC Program Priorities and Benchmarks**

The group reviewed the draft priorities and benchmarks developed at the Sept 5 meeting. The group made several changes to the priorities and agreed to adopt 12 priority statements (see attached document). The group decided to avoid the term "derelict gear" in benchmarks based on Ray Toste's explanation of the crab industry's gear recovery efforts. The group affirmed the desire discussed at the Sept 5 meeting to avoid specific mention of MPAs in priority or benchmark statements. The group made changes to the goal/vision statement, but final language was not agreed on. The group ran out of time to work through the benchmark language, which is still in draft form, and agreed on the need to complete this work at one additional outer coast MRC work group meeting.

### **Next Steps in MRC Program Development and Oversight**

In light of the need by coastal counties to better understand the MRC opportunity, the group decided it was important to finish its work developing benchmarks. There was general agreement that a third condensed meeting should be held to finish this work. The group asked Brie to suggest three dates that coincide with the Grays Harbor Exploratory MRC meetings. The third work group meeting will be from 1pm – 4pm at Montesano

City Hall on the date with best attendance. Please respond to Brie's email with your availability.

### **Grays Harbor County Exploratory Committee Update**

Lee Napier invited outer coast MRC work group members not already involved to attend and observe Grays Harbor County's first Exploratory MRC (E-MRC) meeting Oct 22 at Montesano City Hall 9:30am -12:00pm. Lee also clarified that Grays Harbor County has not ruled out the possibility of participating in a coast-wide MRC, but are currently pursuing a county-based process to determine Grays Harbor County needs.